

## **Year 2000 and 2001 Priority Actions**

### **Veale Tract Drain Relocation - 6**

#### **1. General Description of the Action**

Study environmental impacts of relocating Veale Tract agricultural drains and contribute to relocation costs.

The goal is to minimize impacts of surrounding agricultural land on the drinking water intake of CCWD and biological resources.

The Rock Slough intake to the Contra Costa Canal is located in the west-central Delta in the vicinity of Knightsen in eastern Contra Costa County. The land surrounding Rock Slough is primarily agricultural. The few residences scattered in the vicinity of the intake are ancillary to agricultural operations. Water levels in Rock Slough are subject to tidal variations, and a typical daily variation is about 3.5 feet. Peaks in Rock Slough salinity are typically caused by seawater intrusion from the San Francisco Bay during periods of low Delta outflow (typically, summer and fall), or by agricultural drainage discharges from the Delta and San Joaquin River during leaching and heavy storms (typically during winters of normal and wet years).

A number of agricultural drainages discharge into Rock Slough and Contra Costa Canal. Veale Tract, an area of approximately 1,100 acres, is the largest single land area draining to Rock Slough. Drainage from Veale Tract has been suspected to be the major cause of salinity increases at the District's intake during wet winters. For example, chloride at Pumping Plant No.1 was over 100 mg/L in February and March of 1996 when the chloride level at the junction of Old River and Rock Slough was under 50 mg/L. Agricultural drainage during wet winters can lead to significant increases in the concentrations of dissolved solids, total organic carbon (TOC) and, possibly, pathogens in CCWD's drinking water supply from Rock Slough and at other urban drinking water intakes in the Delta.

#### **2. Cost Estimates**

Mobilization costs, staff costs, and laboratory costs to perform sampling and generate a conclusive summary of existing conditions and feasibility of treatment of relocation to alternative locations will cost approximately \$1.0 million, which is to be expended in FY 2000. Contribution to the approximately \$ 4.0 million relocation project would need to be decided.

CALFED staff would be involved in program development and the results of the study. This should be of limited time, approximately one month of staff time for FY 2000.

#### **3. Program Administration and Governance**

The CALFED Water Quality Program should oversee the scope of the project. DWR should

oversee evaluation of existing conditions and alternative impacts. The US Bureau of Reclamation should be the federal contract authority if necessary.

4. Program Coordination

Detailed monitoring is already being carried out by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau), and CCWD at several locations along Rock Slough and Contra Costa Canal. Sampled parameters include EC, chlorides, metals, pesticides, pathogens, and other constituents as part of the D1485 compliance monitoring and the Municipal Water Quality Investigation Program. However, a lack of simultaneous measurements along the length of the two channels does not allow the source(s) of degradation to be identified conclusively. CCWD would be the CEQA lead agency for preparation of the EIR.

5. Schedule

To pinpoint and quantify the sources of salt and other contaminants into Rock Slough and the Canal, simultaneous measurements along a number of locations (up to twelve) between CCWD Pumping Plant No. 1 and the junction with Old River are planned for the late fall/winter of 1999-2000.

Sampling alternative drain locations will be done at various times throughout the characterization process.